

**For U.S. forces
serving abroad**

Stripes™



A news digest from The Stars and Stripes

Saturday, April 25, 1998

Eight pages

Spending spat may spur DOD layoffs

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Clinton administration, bracing for another spending showdown with the Republican-led Congress, says it may have to lay off thousands of civilian Pentagon employees if an emergency spending bill for disaster relief at home and U.S. troops abroad isn't passed by May 1.

Congressional leaders hope to get the measure to President Clinton's desk by then — but not necessarily in the form he wants.

Republicans already have delayed a vote on Clinton's request for \$18 billion to help the International Monetary Fund weather the Asian financial crisis.

And a band of House conservatives is threatening to further hold up both the IMF money and nearly \$1 billion in back dues owed to the United Nations unless Clinton in turn accepts anti-abortion restrictions.

Budget Director Franklin Raines, in a letter to congressional leaders made public on Friday, urged Congress "to avoid actions that would result in gridlock and be detrimental to our nation."

House and Senate negotiators were named earlier this week to hammer out the final version of emergency spending legislation. The bill would provide relief to communities hard hit by last winter's El Nino-driven storms and help the Pentagon replenish funds strained by deployments in Bosnia and the Persian Gulf. "We urge (negotiators) to avoid actions that would result in gridlock and that would be detrimental to our nation," Raines said in his letter. "American economic and security interests will suffer badly if the president's requests are not promptly enacted into law," Raines said. "A number of programs will be impacted" if the bill is not signed into law by May 1.

In addition to slowing aid for disaster relief programs in up to 16 states, the delay would force the Pentagon to start "extensive cost-cutting actions" to help defray the cost of keeping troops in Bosnia and the Persian Gulf. "The Defense Department is developing a contingency plan which could result in tens of thousands of civilian furloughs, ranging in length from days to weeks," Raines said.

Homeless victimized in asbestos scams

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vulnerable and seeking work, the homeless are increasingly becoming victims in illegal asbestos removal scams where they are employed without training or adequate protection, the Justice Department said Friday.

The problem was highlighted with the announcement of indictments against three Wisconsin men. They are accused of bringing workers from a Chattanooga, Tenn., homeless shelter to their state to illegally remove asbestos from a building being demolished.

Attorney General Janet Reno, calling such activity "a shameful human exploitation" promised the government would take every step to prosecute illegal asbestos removal cases that involve untrained homeless people, teen-agers and unqualified day laborers. "Knowingly removing asbestos improperly is criminal," Reno told a news conference also attended by EPA Administrator Carol Browner. Using vulnerable people for such activity violates "the basic standard of human decency." Asbestos fiber, often used to insulate older buildings, is a hazardous material whose fibers can become deeply imbedded in the lungs and cause respiratory illnesses.

Archives vows reforms after pulping Navy records

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Naval Research Laboratory boxed up a vast collection of its records last fall — some telling of the development of radar and sonar and the early days of the U.S. space program — and sent them to the National Archives for safekeeping. In a bureaucratic foul-up, archives officials destroyed them instead.

After a four-month investigation, Archivist John Carlin, the government's chief records keeper, issued a 28-page report on what went wrong Friday and

promised to reform his agency's procedures.

But he stopped short of apologizing to the Navy. "Established procedures were correctly followed in the disposal of these records," Carlin said. "Nonetheless, records of historical value were destroyed. Therefore significant changes need to be made, and will be."

Destroyed — "pulped beyond recognition" is the archives' term for it — were 4,200 bound scientific notebooks and approximately 1.5 million pages of corre-

spondence and technical memos.

"The historical record of our nation's scientific and technological heritage has suffered a serious and irreparable loss," protested Rear Adm. Paul G. Gaffney II, chief of naval research, in a letter to Carlin when the loss was discovered. He said the records "chronicle some of the most significant technical achievements in the 20th Century." Among them, Gaffney said, were records kept by American pioneers in high frequency radio and the development of radar.

HIV-infected boy's mom speaks out

By St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. CHARLES, Mo. — Trying to focus on her words and hold back tears, Jennifer described to a roomful of reporters and TV cameras Friday how her perfectly healthy baby boy grew into a desperately ill toddler, nearly dying of a mysterious disease that eventually was diagnosed as AIDS.

And in a calm, measured speech she had written, she asked the dozen or so reporters and cameramen crowding the room to refrain from pursuing her family and respect her son's efforts to lead a happy, somewhat normal life.

"We live daily with the reality that he will die of this disease or complications related to this disease," she said.

"I plead with you to respect the privacy and dignity of my son and my family. He's been through so much already. My main concern is to protect my son from any further victimization."

She would reveal only her first name, and did not give her son's name.

The boy's father, Brian T. Stewart, 31, of Columbia, Ill., is charged with first-degree assault. St. Charles County law-enforcement authorities say he injected his son with HIV-tainted blood on Feb. 6, 1992, when the boy was 11 months old. The boy was being treated for respiratory problems when his father visited him alone in a hospital room at St. Joseph's West Hospital in Lake St. Louis.

Switched baby mixup finally resolves

By Scripps Howard

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — A smiling LaDonna Harris and her son left the hospital Friday evening, several hours after genetic testing apparently ended her doubts that the infant was the son she bore April 10.

The test showed a 99.99 percent probability that the pair were mother and child.

Thus, after two weeks of sleeping and eating and being cuddled at the Regional Medical Center at Memphis, Marcus DeWayne Crawford Jr. is expected to wake up in his mother's home Saturday.

Genetic testing also showed that Kevin Merriwether Jr., born April 11, was Brid-

Defense chief signs off on more Super Hornets

By Baltimore Sun

Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen said he is satisfied the Navy has fixed a potentially serious wing problem with the F/A-18 E/F fighter plane, and he cleared the way Friday to pay Boeing Co. \$2 billion for an additional 20 jets.

Congress approved the money last year, but Cohen put it on hold in January until the wing could be fixed.

Test pilots at Patuxent River Naval Air Station in Maryland noticed in 1996 that the new jet, called the Super Hornet, had a disturbing tendency to drop to one side during a crucial combat maneuver.

Engineers from Boeing Co., the Navy and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration tried a variety of measures to address the mysterious problem, finally settling on a

unique approach: poking tiny holes in a piece of metal covering the spot where the wing folds for fitting the plane onto an aircraft carrier.

"I am confident that the Navy's modification to the F/A-18 E/F wing is an acceptable solution to the wing-drop issue," Cohen said Friday. He said Navy officials assured him the step would not add to the \$47 billion cost of the program, and promised to keep close track of its progress.

What hasn't been answered is whether the fix will cause problems in other areas of the jet's performance, such as increasing drag and cutting the distance the Super Hornet can fly without refueling. Early tests showed that the solution might cause some wind buffeting, and a Navy official said the extent of that potential problem is not known.

Admiral tapped for nuclear command

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton has nominated a Navy submarine commander, Vice Adm. Richard Mies, to take charge of the nation's nuclear arsenal.

Mies, 54, would take over the U.S. Strategic Command if he is confirmed by the Senate.

Its current commander, Air Force Gen. Eugene Habiger, 59, has applied to retire effective Aug. 1, the Pentagon said Friday.

The Strategic Command is located at Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha, Neb., and is in charge of the planning for potential nuclear confrontation. Its forces also do analytical studies for strategic nuclear policy and arms control matters.

Mies, a three-star admiral, currently serves as commander of the U.S. submarine force in the Atlantic and as NATO's top submarine commander in the Atlantic, based in Norfolk, Va.

He is a native of Chicago.

Stripes

Stripes is produced by the editorial staff of The European Stars and Stripes at Darmstadt, Germany, from European and Pacific Stars and Stripes staff stories and wire service reports. The Internet address is <http://www.slite.afis.osd.mil/>

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Gulf officer's promotion allowed

By Baltimore Sun

WASHINGTON — Two years have passed since the predawn collision at sea of the carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt and the cruiser USS Leyte Gulf, but the reverberations are still being felt in the Navy.

Navy Secretary John D. Dalton has reversed the proposal of top Navy officers, including the chief of naval operations, Adm. Jay L. Johnson, to remove a Leyte Gulf officer from the promotion list to commander, officials said. Dalton had stepped in six months ago to settle a larger dispute over the promotion another officer involved in the 1996 collision.

Cmdr. Jose Vazquez Jr., 37, was the executive officer of the Leyte Gulf that night the USS Roosevelt aircraft carrier backed into it during maneuvers off the North Carolina coast. Vazquez — who received a punitive letter of reprimand for dereliction of duty but was not held responsible for the collision — received his promotion this week after Dalton's intervention.

Pentagon sources said Johnson and the Navy's Bureau of Personnel wanted to remove Vazquez from the list. Rear Adm. Tom Jurkowski, the

Navy's spokesman, would say only that Dalton and Johnson had a "lengthy discussion" about Vazquez. In the end, they "were in full agreement on promoting Lt. Cmdr. Vazquez," Jurkowski said.

Dalton's spokesman, Capt. Craig Quigley, said only, "Secretary Dalton's approval of that list indicates his trust and confidence in every officer." The disagreement comes six months after Dalton and Johnson engaged in a dispute about revoking the promotion of the officer deemed most liable for the October 1996 collision because he was in command of the Roosevelt: Ronald L. Christenson, now a rear admiral. Johnson won that battle after Defense Secretary William S. Cohen sided with the CNO, declining to recommend to President Clinton that Christenson be returned to a captain's rank.

While Johnson saw the collision as a single incident in an illustrious career, others noted that Johnson, like Christenson, is an aviator and might have been looking out for a fellow flier. For his part, Dalton said Christenson "did not meet the high standards of professional competence."

Then-Capt. Christenson was in his

bunk when the Roosevelt suddenly reversed without warning and slammed into the Leyte Gulf about 100 miles off Cape Hatteras, N.C., causing \$10 million in damages to both ships but no injuries.

Some Navy officers and Pentagon officials saw a double standard in the Navy hierarchy's support for Christenson and its treatment of the two more junior surface warfare officers on the Leyte Gulf: Vazquez and the skipper, Capt. Coleman A. Landers.

All three received punitive letters of reprimand. But Vazquez and Landers were "removed for cause" from the Leyte Gulf after an investigation.

Christenson, a 1969 Naval Academy graduate, was allowed to rotate off the Roosevelt before the investigation was complete. He is now stationed at the Pentagon in charge of the Navy's aircraft carrier programs.

After an article in The Baltimore Sun last month about the dispute among top Navy officials, the Senate Armed Services Committee decided to review the Navy's decision to retain Christenson's promotion. The matter is still under review.

Vazquez is a 1982 academy graduate.

Baseball announcer goofs on Ray's death

By Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

PITTSBURGH — Those driving into one of Pittsburgh's tunnels and listening to the Pirates on KDKA Radio shouldn't have worried if they lost the reception just as Lanny Frattare was announcing that James Earl Jones was dead.

Reports of the famous actor's death, as the old saying goes, were very much exaggerated.

What Frattare meant to say, and what he corrected after a few moments, was that James Earl Ray had died.

Here's what radio listeners heard Thursday:

Around 1:50 p.m., with J.T. Snow of the San Francisco Giants at bat, Frattare interrupted his play-by-play to announce that James Earl Jones had died.

It was sad news, Frattare let listeners know, because of

Jones' many memorable roles.

One of those roles, Frattare pointed out, was in the baseball film "Field of Dreams."

He momentarily recalled how Jones waxed eloquent about baseball in the film.

But then, there was a rustling of paper in the background. Uh, no, it was James Earl Ray, the man who killed the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., who died.

And then it was back to J.T.

Snow.

"I don't feel glad about it; in fact I felt like a real fool," Frattare said from San Diego, where he was with the Pirates. "But by the same token, a lot of us in baseball have a lot of feelings about 'Field of Dreams' and the soliloquy he gave in it."

Frattare said he misunderstood the director of the broadcast booth when she told him that Ray had died.

More than 500 bags seized in Texas airport luggage theft

DALLAS (AP) — A man was charged with stealing dlr\$ 1 million worth of luggage from the baggage conveyors at Dallas-Fort Worth Airport and selling the bags and their contents.

"As far as we know, this is the largest

such recovery of luggage at any major airport, at least in the U.S.," Airport Police Chief Tom Shehan said Thursday.

James Clarence Ringley, 46, of Arlington, was charged with theft.

Police said he stole more than 500

pieces of luggage simply by plucking them from baggage conveyers.

The luggage was seized from Ringley's home, a storage shed and his stall at a market. Expensive golf clubs and electronic items were also found.

Shuttle's air-cleaning system falters

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Equipment needed to remove carbon dioxide from space shuttle Columbia's atmosphere shut down late Friday, and the astronauts had to use a backup system to cleanse the air.

Mission Control spokesman James Hartsfield said the seven astronauts were never in any danger from the problem and the carbon dioxide levels always remained normal.

The carbon-dioxide removal

unit shut down just before midnight, setting off alarms, Hartsfield said. The astronauts were still up even though it was past their bedtime, and Mission Control asked them to switch to another set of control electronics and restart the unit. But it shut down again.

Flight controllers instructed the astronauts to install backup carbon-dioxide absorption cans, carried on every shuttle mission just in case the main

system fails. These lithium-hydroxide cans must be replaced daily as they become saturated.

Controllers continued to evaluate the problem early Saturday and may ask the astronauts to try to fix the unit after they awaken, Hartsfield said. Because of the trouble, the crew went to bed two hours late and was given an extra hour to sleep in.

As a result, some of Saturday morning's events have

been canceled, including a ship-to-ship radio call to Russia's space station Mir, Hartsfield said.

Earlier Friday, Columbia's astronauts performed the first embalming ever done in space, replacing the blood of young rats with formaldehyde as part of a study of the brain.

The doctors on board, Jay Buckley Jr. and Dave Williams, injected an anaesthetic overdose into eight 16-day-old rats.

Ex-GI an unknown hero in Belgium, even to self

BREWTON, Ala. (AP) — Bill Carroll's blue eyes sparkle as he rummages through a wooden chest, pulling out books and photos from World War II. At 76, he lives alone with only his poodle, Cheri, for company, but his Army days are more than a fading memory.

He keeps happily reliving them — over there.

Over there, where the girls kiss him once more, where the townspeople toast him, where the joys of liberation swirl around him as if he were riding into Peruwez, Belgium on his U.S. Army motorcycle for the first time, as he did on Sept. 3, 1944.

Arriving as the German occupiers were fleeing Peruwez, the smiling, ruddy-faced GI on his bike became a symbol of liberation. But for 50 years Peruwez people thought their hero, "le premier soldat americain," was dead. And Carroll had no idea he was a household name in Peruwez.

A photograph of Carroll on the flower-draped motorcycle was displayed at City Hall, and on the altar at the Catholic church where prayers were said for him during Mass. Rumor had it that he had been killed in the fighting that continued after Peruwez's liberation, and buried in a mass grave somewhere.

Four years ago a Belgian professor, Pierre Deprez, contacted military re-

searcher Donald F. Evans of Collegeville, Pa., to help confirm Carroll's death and perhaps find his burial place.

The photograph turned out to be the key.

The logo on the bike identified an armor unit. Evans tapped into a databank of veterans, found about 80 men with the same name, and sent copies of the photo to some of them.

One recipient was Bill Carroll, living in Brewton, a small timber town near the Alabama-Florida border. "My God, that's me," he remembers thinking to himself when he gazed at the photo. Telephone contact followed, and he was invited to the town of 16,600 on the French border to share in the celebrations of their liberation.

It has become a fixture. On Wednesday, for the third consecutive year, Carroll will return to Peruwez for the May 2-3 commemoration.

Although age has slowed him, the retired first sergeant retains a military bearing and says the uniform he retired in still fits.

The living room of his apartment is decorated with a framed print of a tank and medals flanked by the American and Belgian flags. After a 22-year military career, including 12 in postwar Germany, Carroll worked at the University of Minnesota.

11 years in jail urged for Fortier

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — A man who knew of the plan to bomb the Oklahoma City federal building but failed to warn anyone should serve 11 to 14 years in prison, federal prosecutors recommended Friday.

Michael Fortier will be sentenced May 27 for his failure to warn anyone and for lying to FBI agents. The April 19, 1995, bombing killed 168 people and injured more than 500.

In a motion filed in U.S. District Court, prosecutors said they agreed with a presentencing report that said Fortier did not intend to cause deaths by his actions and may be deserving of a lighter sentence because of his cooperation.

Fortier, 29, pleaded guilty in August 1995 to four felony counts. He has been in federal custody since then.

His sentencing was delayed until after the trials of Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols.

Fortier also is being sentenced for plotting with McVeigh to take 25 stolen guns from Kansas to Arizona and then actually moving them.

In the motion filed Friday, U.S. Attorney Patrick Ryan said "Michael Fortier is not Timothy McVeigh or Terry Nichols, even putting aside the fact that he cooperated with investigators and they did not.

U.S. pushing for sanctions in Kosovo

By Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The United States is prepared to abandon the "contact group" of nations seeking a solution to the crisis in Yugoslavia's Kosovo region if the group balks at imposing new sanctions on the Belgrade government when it meets Wednesday in Rome, senior Clinton administration officials said Friday.

Washington believes that armed clashes between Yugoslav troops and separatist guerrillas in the mostly Albanian province of Kosovo are on the brink of an escalation that could engulf the Balkans, and officials blame the deterioration largely on Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic, senior officials said.

They offered a grim scenario in which Kosovar rebels would seek safe haven across the border in Albania, Yugoslav troops would pursue them across the rugged, loosely guarded border, refugees would flee to neighboring countries including Macedonia, and a Bosnia-style regional war would break out.

Their concerns were heightened by a border clash Thursday in which Yugoslav troops killed at least 19 suspected guerrilla infiltrators, by reports Friday that Yugoslav aircraft had entered Albanian air space and by the outcome of a referendum Thursday in which Serbs voted overwhelmingly against international mediation in Kosovo.

Given the danger, if Washington's contact group partners — Britain, Germany, Italy, France and Russia — resist U.S. demands for a new crackdown on Yugoslavia, the United States is ready to open a separate diplomatic initiative.

Russian lawmakers OK Yeltsin's prime minister

By Los Angeles Times

MOSCOW — Deputies in Russia's lower house of parliament, voting to save their own jobs, caved in to President Boris N. Yeltsin on Friday and confirmed Sergei Kiriyenko, 35, his nominee for prime minister.

While Communists and liberals protested Yeltsin's choice of the boyish political newcomer to hold Russia's No.

Croats burn buildings, attack U.N. vehicles

DRVAR, Bosnia and Herzegovina (AP) — NATO peacekeeping troops fired warning shots to break up a riot Friday in northwestern Bosnia by 1,500 Bosnian Croats who set buildings ablaze and overturned U.N. vehicles in retaliation for a Serb attack.

The latest outpouring of ethnic hostilities in the troubled town of Drvar left 19 people injured, including four U.N. officers and the Serb mayor, Western officials said.

The office of the U.N. refugee agency, which is overseeing the return of Serbs to the Croat-dominated town, was among buildings burned to the ground.

The NATO-led peace force evacuated aid workers and put more troops and helicopters on standby as a precaution against further rioting in the town in the Muslim-Croat controlled

part of Bosnia. "These incidents will not be tolerated by SFOR," the Stabilization Force, said Maj. Chris Kinsville-Heyne, a British NATO spokesman. "Violent protests are totally unacceptable."

U.N. officials from Sarajevo who aborted a plan to fly into Drvar earlier Friday because of the danger arrived Friday night and held an emergency meeting on what measures they should take. Visitors found charred buildings still smoldering, NATO helicopters hovering over the town and armored vehicles patrolling abandoned streets. "This is sad — that looks like a war," a senior U.N. official, Mark Kroeker, said earlier as he flew over the town with a dozen buildings ablaze. The crowd attacked, stoned and set ablaze the headquarters of U.N. police monitors.

Iraq sanctions divides council

By Washington Post

UNITED NATIONS — Two months after Secretary General Kofi Annan and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein agreed to sidestep a military confrontation over arms inspections, members of the Security Council remain as sharply divided over the future of economic sanctions against Iraq as they were at the height of the crisis. The 15-member body will consider Mon-

day whether to extend for another six months the severe economic sanctions imposed on Iraq for its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. The sanctions are supposed to remain in place until the council is satisfied that Iraq has eliminated its weapons of mass destruction. However, because nearly eight years of sanctions have caused perpetual suffering for millions of Iraqis without loosening Saddam Hus-

sein's hold on power, many governments — including permanent members China, Russia, and France — have suggested it is time to try a more flexible approach. Hoping to exploit differences among council members, Iraq has mounted a resurgent campaign to demand that it be freed of the sanctions. Baghdad has given strong hints that it intends to assert that it has honored fully its agreement.

Yeltsin, who was required by the constitution to dissolve the Duma if it rejected his nominee a third time, hailed the vote as "a victory of reason over emotions."

"I am happy that the Russian state has emerged from this prolonged government crisis with honor, that it has not lost any of its prestige, that it has preserved peace and calm in the country," Yeltsin said.

2 post, the Duma deputies yielded to the president rather than face early elections and the loss of their government perks.

Voting in secret to protect their reputations, the deputies reversed two earlier votes and approved the appointment by a 251-25 margin. Kiriyenko, a former banker, oil company executive and Cabinet minister, needed 226 votes from the Duma's 450 members to prevail.

Rare baseball cards are stolen from cafe

By Associated Press

NEW YORK — Charlie Sheen is out about \$170,000 after someone stole rare baseball cards he'd loaned to the Official All Star Cafe in Times Square.

Nothing else was taken from the sports-themed cafe in the heist, police said Thursday. The cards, printed in the early 1900s and valued at \$170,000, were stolen a day earlier from a display case. Sheen's publicist, Jeff Ballard, said the actor was upset.

"It's a sad day when artifacts that represent the essence of this country's heart and soul are removed from a public place of enjoyment," Ballard quoted Sheen as saying.

Kissinger a sports guy?

NEW YORK — Henry Kissinger: peace broker, presidential adviser and ... sports guy?

In his first sportscasting gig, the former secretary of state presented the Sports Legend award to New York Yankees baseball great Joe DiMaggio Thursday evening.

DiMaggio, a Yankees Hall of Fame centerfielder, is the seventh retired athlete to be honored by the association. He

joined Muhammad Ali, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Arthur Ashe, A.J. Foyt, John McEnroe and Joe Frazier.

Kissinger was made an honorary sportscaster by the association last year after he said his lifetime ambition had been to broadcast soccer matches.

DiMaggio said he is sentimental about 75-year-old Yankee Stadium, which was temporarily closed recently after a 500-pound steel joint fell while the park was empty. The park was to reopen tonight.

"But I'm not sentimental when I think of that outfield. Five-hundred feet, that's how far we had to hit them to get a home run," he mused.

'South Park' ratings hit

LOS ANGELES — The foul-mouthed gang from the animated show "South Park" is turning out to be a ratings bonanza for Comedy Central.

The half-hour show scored the highest rating ever for a basic cable entertainment series with its Wednesday episode, Comedy Central said Thursday. In the highly anticipated episode, one of the children, Cartman, discovers that his mother is a hermaphrodite and actually is his father. The series marries violence, profanity and third-grade cartoon characters.

**Faces
'n'
places**

Streisand takes shot at media

NEW YORK (AP) — They don't like me. They really, really don't like me, Barbra Streisand says of the media.

She told *Mirabella* magazine that she wants to know "why the media hates me?"

For instance, when she was doing research on schizophrenia for "Nuts" at a state hospital, someone asked her "Are you as mean as they say?"

"This kind of cynical press is going to be responsible for a decline in American civilization. It's like the fall of the Roman Empire," Ms. Streisand said.

At 56, she wears a diamond engagement ring and seems happy with actor James Brolin.

She feel like she's "21 and starting over again."

Still, her media image stings.

"So many untrue things have been written about me that it boggles the mind," she said.

"A lot of it is character assassination."

Going to hell will be tough

HELL, Michigan (AP) — The bridge to Hell is being repaved with good intentions, but locals fear it will be bad for business.

This summer, repair crews will reconstruct a 62-year-old bridge that serves the main road through town. The work will block traffic for three months.

"It'll close the whole town," said Hell Chamber of Commerce President Jim Ley. "That's where our money comes from. It'll kill us." Tourists flock to this unincorporated rural village, about 55 miles (90 kilometers) west of Detroit, for its underworldly allure. Many leave with souvenir items that say "I've been to Hell and back."

In The Stars and Stripes

10 YEARS AGO

April 25, 1988 — Enthusiastic bidders at Sotheby's in New York ran up prices at the opening of a 10-day auction of the late Andy Warhol's personal collection, paying more than \$5 million for the art deco and art nouveau items that went on the block first.

20 YEARS AGO

April 25, 1978 — The Supreme Court opened the way for Patricia Hearst's return to prison for robbing a California bank in 1974 by denying her appeal without comment.

30 YEARS AGO

April 25, 1968 — Tornadoes swept out of the skies with little warning and cut a path of death and destruction through communities in Michigan, Ohio and Kentucky, killing 13 and injuring scores.

40 YEARS AGO

April 25, 1958 — The Senate Armed Services Committee unanimously approved a \$577 million military pay-raise bill. The measure, which provides a pay increase of at least 6 percent, was intended as a retention incentive.

50 YEARS AGO

April 25, 1948 — Gen. Lucius D. Clay said the United States would ignore any controls placed by the Soviet Union on air traffic to Berlin and would continue to abide by quadripartite rules.

Bulls get big scare from Nets

By Associated Press

That gust of air emanating from the nation's midsection had nothing to do with the weather.

It was a collective breath of relief from all the Chicago Bulls fans who saw their dysfunctional dynasty teetering on the verge of an unspeakable loss.

The communal psyche in the city of Chicago was better today than it might have been, thanks to the Bulls squeezing out a 96-93 overtime victory over the ailing New Jersey Nets in the opener of their best-of-5 series.

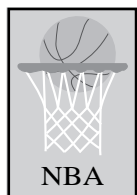
"We walk away feeling lucky more so than anything. It could have gone either way, especially in overtime," said Michael Jordan, who scored 39 points and made the game-turning play in the final minute of the extra period.

Chicago's near-loss was the highlight of the night as four more opening games were played on the second night of postseason action. In other games, the Los Angeles Lakers edged Portland 104-102, Miami handled New York 94-79 and Seattle trounced Minnesota 108-83.

There was no hint of the scare to come early in the fourth quarter at the United

Center as Jordan went to the bench for a breather with the Bulls holding a 14-point lead.

New Jersey was without its two leading scorers, Keith Van Horn (flu-like symptoms) and Sam Cassell (aggravated groin strain), and it looked like the Nets would fade away and play the part of humble eighth seed.



But that wasn't what happened.

Led by Chris Gatling, the Nets scored 10 straight and went on a 16-2 run to tie the game at 80 with 4:10 left.

Lakers 104, Trail Blazers 102

At Inglewood, Calif., Kobe Bryant scored 11 of his 15 points in the last 8 1/2 minutes, Shaquille O'Neal had 18 of his 30 in the second half and Nick Van Exel made a clutch 3-pointer with 31.1 seconds left.

The Lakers won their 15th straight playoff game over Portland at the Forum. The Blazers' last postseason victory there came in 1977 — the year they won their only NBA title.

The Lakers went ahead for good by scoring nine straight points to turn a

three-point deficit into a 93-87 lead with a little over three minutes remaining.

Heat 94, Knicks 79

At Miami, it was a comparatively tranquil night for the two teams with a history of clashes and controversies.

Tim Hardaway scored 34 points and Erik Murdock added 16 off the bench as the Heat built a 24-point lead and then withstood a Knicks comeback.

The opener had little of the bad behavior that has marked the rivalry.

"With all the rhetoric and talk during the week, I got the feeling we were playing in the finals," Heat coach Pat Riley said.

SuperSonics 108, Timberwolves 83

At Seattle, Vin Baker had 25 points and 12 rebounds in his first career playoff game as the Sonics opened a big first-half lead and cruised the rest of the way.

"Yeah, I was nervous when I stepped on the floor and I got cottonmouth too soon, but thank goodness it didn't affect my shooting," said Baker, who was 11-for-19 from the floor.

Gary Payton added 19 points and seven assists, and Detlef Schrempf got 17 points for the Sonics.

Stars have as many wins as injuries

By Associated Press

The Dallas-San Jose series is the only one in the NHL's postseason to have the same winner in both games. It's also the series that could get the ugliest.

The Stars beat the Sharks 5-2 Friday night to go up 2-0 in the best-of-7 series, and for the second straight game they lost a top center to a questionable San Jose hit.

"Both teams are bordering on running over the top emotionally," Dallas coach Ken Hitchcock said. "The emotions are ripe to top out. It will probably get even more emotional in San Jose."

Mike Modano, who just signed a \$6 million a year contract with Dallas, sustained a mild concussion in a second-period collision with

Marcus Ragnarsson of the Sharks and did not return.

Modano said he will play in Game 3 at San Jose on Sunday.

"I got hit in the back of the head with a stick. I was unconscious for about 30 seconds," Modano said. "Doctors said my concussion was slight and I will play on Sunday."

Modano said the way San Jose plays "is really an undisciplined and selfish style they are playing. They are taking dumb penalties and not playing smart. They are acting like they are untouchable out there. You can't win when you're in the penalty box all night. It's just stupid."

Dallas lost top regular-sea-



son scorer Joe Nieuwendyk for at least two weeks after a first-period knee injury in Wednesday night's 4-1 win. He was hit by San Jose defenseman Bryan Marchment.

There was no penalty on Marchment's hit and there was none on Modano's injury.

San Jose was penalized 21 times for 72 minutes Friday.

"Most of our penalties are retaliation," Sharks coach Darryl Sutter said.

"I'd like to see the next game a little shorter, with fewer whistles."

In other playoff games Friday, each of which evened the series 1-1, it was Boston 4, Washington 3; Phoenix 7, Detroit 4; New Jersey 3, Ottawa 1; Philadelphia 3, Buffalo 2; and Colorado 5, Edmonton 2.

Tonight, Montreal is at

Pittsburgh and Los Angeles is at St. Louis. Montreal and St. Louis won those series openers.

Pat Verbeek scored two of Dallas' four power-play goals and Ed Belfour stopped 18 shots in his 37th career playoff win.

Jere Lehtinen scored 85 seconds into the game to give Dallas a 1-0 lead and Derian Hatcher made it 2-0 just 28 seconds later.

"I think it's ridiculous," Hatcher said of the Sharks' roughhouse play.

"I know it's not what the league wants. They need to look at some of the things that went on here tonight."

Bill Houlder scored for San Jose with 12:14 left in the third period to break the shutout.

Piazza hits third slam of season

By The Associated Press

With the season less than a month old, Mike Piazza already has three grand slams.

"I can't really explain it," Piazza said after leading the Los Angeles Dodgers over the Chicago Cubs 12-4 Friday night. "I've just been fortunate to be in those situations. I really didn't feel like I swung the bat that well tonight, so I'm lucky that I have something to show for it."

Los Angeles scored nine runs in the second inning to erase a 1-0 deficit against Kerry Wood (1-2). Todd Hollandsworth tied it with an RBI grounder, and Wood walked four straight batters, including Eric Young and Roger Cedeno on four pitches each with the bases loaded.

Wood brushed back Piazza with his next delivery and the five-time all-star hit his eighth homer of the season — and eighth career slam — just inside the foul pole in right.

The only other NL player with three slams in one month was Cincinnati's Eric Davis in May 1987. It's been done four times in the AL.

"He threw a really good curveball and I

just kind of dropped my bat on the ball and got enough of it to drive it out of there," Piazza said.

In other games, Houston beat Montreal 8-4, Atlanta beat Arizona 6-5, Philadelphia beat St. Louis 8-4, Florida beat Colorado 5-1, Pittsburgh beat San Diego 4-2, Milwaukee beat San Francisco 7-5 and New York beat Cincinnati 3-2.



At Los Angeles, Ismael Valdes (2-3) allowed four runs and five hits in seven innings. Wood (1-2) was pounded for seven runs and two hits in 1 2-3 innings.

Astros 8, Expos 4

Moises Alou homered and drove in five runs at Olympic Stadium, and Carl Everett homered from both sides of the plate for the second time in his career. Alou had a two-run single in the first off Marc Valdes (0-3) and a three-run homer off Rick DeHart in the third, putting Houston ahead 6-1.

Everett homered from the right side in the third and from the left side off Miguel Batista in the fifth.

Jose Lima (3-1) allowed two runs — one earned — and nine hits in seven in-

nings.

Braves 6, Diamondbacks 5

Javy Lopez hit a two-run homer and then doubled home the winning run off Russ Springer (1-1) in the ninth at Turner Field as Atlanta won for the ninth time in 10 games. Chipper Jones led off the inning with a single, his fourth hit.

Kerry Ligtenberg (2-1) pitched one scoreless inning.

Phillies 8, Cardinals 4

Desi Relaford and Rico Brogna drove in two runs apiece in a seven-run fifth inning as Philadelphia won its third straight.

Matt Whiteside (1-1) replaced starter Mike Grace in the fourth at Veterans Stadium and pitched 1 1-3 hitless innings.

Kent Mercker (2-1) was tagged for seven runs and seven hits in 4 1-3 innings.

Marlins 5, Rockies 1

Rookie Brian Meadows (3-2) won his third consecutive start, scattering nine hits and striking out five. It was Florida's first complete game of the season and his first complete game in five career starts.

Cliff Floyd had three hits for Florida, which has won four of its last five home games.

Yankees come home, beat Tigers

By Associated Press

With fans wearing hard hats nearby, owner George Steinbrenner bought hot dogs and signed autographs. And with talk show host Jerry Springer in the house, a fight nearly broke out.

If Yankee Stadium closing down for 11 days seemed surreal, so was its reopening.

Playing at home for the first time since a 500-pound expansion joint fell and forced the famous 75-year-old ballpark to close for repairs, the New York Yankees defeated the Detroit Tigers 8-4 for their 12th win in 13 games.

Steinbrenner watched the first five innings in the same section where the chunk of steel and concrete fell. Before departing, he bought hot dogs for an entire section after a young woman showed him a

tiny shriveled up frankfurter she had purchased.

"It was great," Steinbrenner said. "It was like old times when you're a kid, going with a bunch of guys."

Steinbrenner enjoyed watching David Cone (2-1) pitch the Yankees to their fourth straight victory, improving the AL's best record to 13-5.

Cone improved to 11-1 against the Tigers, who lost their ninth consecutive road game and have the worst record in the majors at 4-15.

Elsewhere in the AL, it was Boston 7, Cleveland 5; Seattle 4, Minnesota 2; Anaheim 10, Tampa Bay 3; Oakland 10, Baltimore 1; Kansas City 11, Texas 4; and Toronto 3, Chicago 1.



Darryl Strawberry's homer into the upper deck in right field highlighted a four-run first inning for New York. Strawberry homered last week in the Yankees' relocated game to Shea, but was just 1-for-14 on a road trip that followed.

"I feel really comfortable playing in New York," Strawberry said. "I hit that one well, but I didn't stand there and admire it. That's not me. I don't believe in that."

This series was originally supposed to be at Tiger Stadium. But because of a flip-flop caused by the problem at Yankee Stadium, the teams played at Detroit last weekend and switched to New York this weekend.

Both benches emptied in the eighth inning after New York catcher Joe Girardi angrily

headed toward Raul Casanova, who had just scored on a two-run double by Bobby Higginson.

"He said something to me and I said something back," Girardi said.

The incident occurred moments after Tigers manager Buddy Bell argued with plate umpire Jim Evans, claiming New York reliever Mike Stanton had hit Joe Randa with a pitch in apparent retaliation for Doug Bochtler plunking Tino Martinez.

Indians 7, Red Sox 5

At Cleveland, Darren Bragg ripped Cleveland pitching again and Tim Wakefield (1-1) overcame a three-run, fourth-hit first inning.

Boston, off to its best start through 21 games since 1946, has won five straight and 12 of 13.